

## Message Text

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17

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05

SCCT-01 IO-10 OMB-01 /083 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/APU:AEBRAZEAL:SO

APPROVED BY ARA/APU:CEBARTCH

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R 190013Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS STATE 170516

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UY, AR

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON TUPAMAROS

1. JULY 18 WASHINGTON POST CARRIED ARTICLE BY DAVID BELNAP OF LOS ANGELES TIMES ON PAGE 18 ENTITLED QUOTE TUPAMARO VITAL SIGNS STILL WEAK UNQUOTE. ARTICLE DATE-LINED MONTEVIDEO REPORTS THAT THE FEW TUPAMAROS STILL IN URUGUAY HAVE A LIMITED CAPACITY FOR TERRORIST OPERATIONS. OTHER TUPAMAROS ARE IN EXILE AND ARE ACTIVE IN SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS IN ARGENTINA AND BOLIVIA. ARTICLE GOES ON TO REPORT GOU COMBINED FORCES COMMUNIQUE REPORTING ARREST OF 22 TUPAMAROS IN SERIES OF RAIDS. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM ARTICLE. BEGIN QUOTE:  
WHERE ARE THE TUPAMAROS ... SOME STILL ARE HERE BUT IN GREATLY REDUCED NUMBERS AND LIMITED CAPACITY FOR TERRORIST OPERATIONS...MANY MORE LIVE IN EXILE...OTHERS, INCLUDING MOST OF THE BAND'S FORMER TOP LEADERS, ARE DEAD OR IN JAIL  
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...A COMBINED FORCES COMMUNIQUE REPORTED THE OTHER DAY

THAT 22 TUPAMAROS INCLUDING SEVERAL WHO HAD RETURNED HERE SECRETLY FROM EXILE, HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN A SERIES OF RAIDS BEGINNING MAY 25...THE COMMUNIQUE CHARGED THAT THE TUPAMARO MOVEMENT IS NOW DIRECTED BY A "CENTRAL COMMITTEE ACTING CLANDESTINELY FROM A BASE IN BUENOS AIRES," THE

ARGENTINE CAPITAL. THE COMMITTEE'S OBJECTIVE IS TO INFILTRATE FUGITIVE TUPAMAROS BACK INTO URUGUAY TO REORGANIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE MOVEMENT, THE COMMUNIQUE ADDED...THEY STILL POSSESS THE CAPACITY FOR SELECTED ACTS OF TERRORISM, PROBABLY EVEN INCLUDING KIDNAPING, MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE. ...THE TUPAMAROS APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN MASS ACTIONS, SUCH AS PUBLIC PROTESTS AND POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS IN QUEST OF THEIR GOAL OF A MARXIST SOCIALIST REVOLUTION.....SOME OF THEIR INITIAL EXPLOITS GAVE THEM A ROMANTIC IMAGE, ATTRACTING NEW RECRUITS TO THE MOVEMENT UNTIL ITS GROWTH FINALLY JEOPARDIZED ITS CELL-STYLE COMPARTMENTALIZATION--A FACTOR THAT ULTIMATELY HELPED LEAD TO ITS DOWNFALL....ONE LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT SAID THE TUPAMAROS FOUND "THAT THE MILITARY COULD BE TOUGH--NOT JUST FUN AND GAMES. THIS SHATTERED THEIR FAITH THAT AN ELITE GROUP OF MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE WITH GUNS COULD WIN THE WAR." UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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